MONTEREY NEWS

February 1999
VOLUME XXIX · Number 2

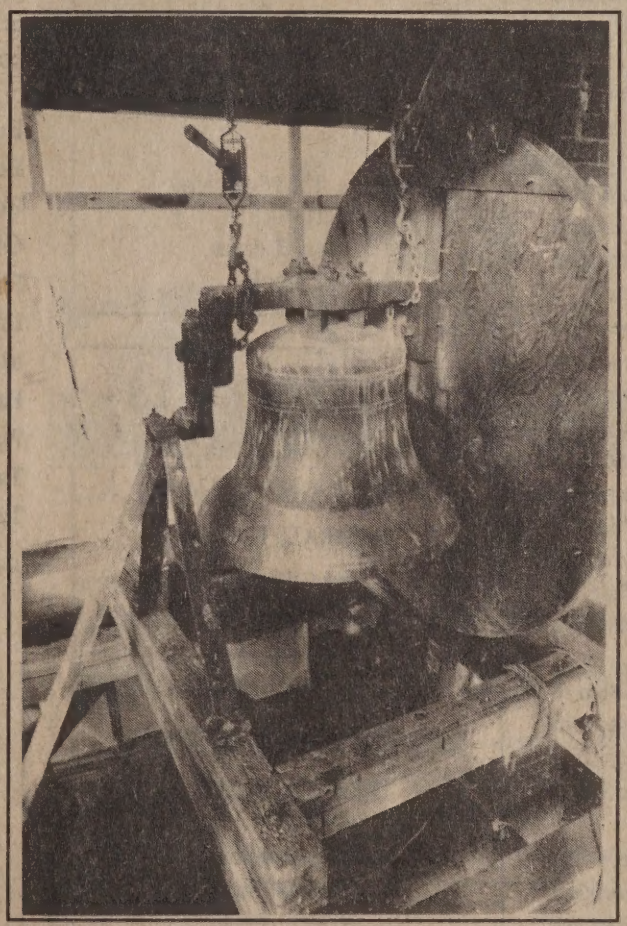
TOWN NEWS

Town Survey. The Monterey Town Survey Committee has been meeting regularly over the past several months, working alone and with various town boards and departments, to create a survey that will be sent to all Monterey residents and landowners. A draft has been compiled and will be reviewed at a meeting for all town boards and officers on Tuesday, February 2, at 7 p.m., at the Town Offices.

The scope of the survey will be quite extensive. Some of the information gathered will be used to help create a master plan which is needed if the Town is to be eligible for future grants. Other information will help point out the level of satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with various boards and regulatory agencies, as well as with life as a whole in Monterey.

If you have any area of interest or concern that you feel should be included in the survey, please either attend the February 2 meeting or communicate your ideas to the committee. We hope to have the survey ready for mailing by early summer.

— Mickey Jervas



© JOHN HUMPHREY

No bats in this belfry! Renovation on the Monterey Meetinghouse continues; see details p. 3.

School assessment update. The five towns of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District continue to work on hammering out an agreement on the equitable apportionment of the school's operating budget. The mediation effort that took place in late December has resulted in the outline of a two-part agreement which is currently under review by the various Select Boards.

The first part of the agreement deals with the operating budget assessments and is a negotiated settlement loosely based on the October 1997 enrollment figures. During negotiations representatives from the towns met with mediator David Burbank both separately and together. "Separating the towns was beneficial" said Select Board member Fred Chapman, "because when everyone is together and strong emotions are expressed it tends to stagnate the process." Chapman added that while waiting to meet with Burbank, Monterey Select Board members were sequestered in the band room, "It was cold in there but there was all kinds of great stuff—kettle drums, chimes. We had fun."

Superintendent of Schools William Cooper reported that part of the agreement contains an "agreed-upon statement of facts" which would be used by a court as a starting point to determine a permanent solution to the assessment issue, should the five towns fail to reach a resolution.

Both parts of the agreement must be signed by the select boards in all five towns. Then there would be a push to schedule Special Town meetings as soon as possible to vote on the package so as not to compromise the annual meeting schedule.

Energy choice. The Select Board recently enrolled the town in MunEnergy, a program sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) that is designed to provide low-cost energy to municipalities. The MMA, in conjunction with National Energy Choice, surveyed energy providers and chose the one that could deliver energy at the lowest cost—in this case an outfit called Select Energy which is a division of Northeast Utilities. Select Energy will begin supplying electricity to the town as of the first billing cycle after January 1, 1999. Additionally, Select Energy will perform and energy audit to identify potential energy efficiency improvements to further reduce the Town's electricity costs.

Speaking of the MMA. Select Board

members Muriel Lazzarini and Peter Brown travelled to the Copley Plaza in Boston to attend a convention of the Massachusetts Municipal Association and attend several workshops. Peter Brown mentioned that he particularly enjoyed two workshops, one on municipal computer systems and the other regarding the Geographical Information System (GIS) computer system.

Monterey Day on the horizon. On January 25 the Select Board met with Amy Goldfarb, Ellen Pearson, and Ian Jenkins to discuss plans for this year's "I Love Monterey" Day festivities. A tentative date of July 17 has been set for the celebration, but committee members postponed a final decision pending discussion with the Parks Department regarding the date of the Knox Trail Run road race.

Although still very much in the planning phase, this year's event looks to be a winner. There was discussion regarding souvenirs and the pro's and cons of t-shirts, (Are they passé?), plus plans for a raffle and/or silent auction, and the possibility of a "horse component." This last was from Ellen Pearson who observed that a lot of folks in Monterey own horses, and that it would be fun to do something with them.

Anyone with ideas for "I Love Monterey" Day, or those interested in helping with the event should contact Amy Goldfarb at either the Roadside Store, 528-2633, or at home 528-2132.

Correction. It was incorrectly reported in the January issue of the *Monterey News* that Kathy Wasiuk, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Gould Farm, was formerly on staff at Gould Farm and has been an associate since 1992. Wasiuk is director of Academic Resources at Northfield Mount Hermon School where she has worked since 1988. This is her first association with Gould Farm.

— Maggie Leonard

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

MONTERY

GENERAL STORE

Serving Monterey

for over 200 years

Route 23, Monterey
528-4437
Open 7 days
a week

CRONE CRAFTS

ASTROLOGY · TAROT · FLOWER ESSENCES
INDIVIDUALS · COUPLES · CLASSES

MARYKATE JORDAN

413 / 528-5557

P. O. BOX 191 MONTEREY, MA 01245

MONTEREY NEWS
tee-shirts!

$15 postpaid
$13 kids' large

Wear the masthead!

HEADS UP ON TOWN ELECTIONS

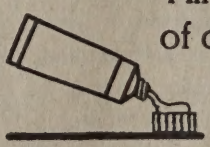
The following is a list of Town Officers whose terms expire. Those incumbents who are running again are noted. If you are interested in running for a particular office—whatever your political affiliation, Independent, Democrat or Republican—please contact either Mark Makuc, Republican chair, at 528-1382 or 5834 and/or Charles Ferris Democratic chair at 528-0732.

Board of Appeals:	One open seat
Board of Assessors:	One open seat
Board of Selectmen:	One open seat
Cemetery Committee:	One open seat
Finance Committee:	One open seat
Library Committee:	Two open seats
Moderator:	One open seat
Park Commission:	One open seat
Planning Board:	One open seat
Tax Collector:	One open seat
Tree Warden:	One open seat

DR. JERROLD RAAB

Dentist

All phases of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

WILLIAM BROCKMAN
REAL ESTATE

FIDDLETOP • MONTEREY • MASSACHUSETTS 01245
413 528 - 4859

Country homes and estates, vacation homes, weekend retreats, building sites and acreage.

NEW YORK MASSACHUSETTS CONNECTICUT

MLS

MEETING HOUSE UPDATE

Although the weather has been presenting challenges for the contractor, the Monterey Meeting House is under construction. Those of you who travel through the center of town on a regular basis have probably noticed the project and it's consistent progress. We are confident that we will not only meet our end- of-May deadline in order to receive the grant money, but also have an historically correct renovated church in the center of town that everyone can be proud of.

From the initial ground breaking and ledge busting by the hard working crew of Annecharico Construction, to the current plastic wrapped, weather tight shell around the belfry put up by Kurt Hoelter and GFI Builders, both the construction and communications have been running smoothly. Architect David Bixby, from the firm of Clark and Green in Great Barrington, has been diligent both with his drawings and his on-site management, keeping all of us on the building committee informed of the construction work being done as well as any changes that have come up over the past few months. So far we have had no complaints from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and if all remains on track, they should be pleased with the outcome. Certainly, all the hard work put in by the people mentioned above will make them look good!

Please feel free to take a walk around the building and have a look at the great stone retaining wall Annecharico has built on the north side to accommodate the new handicap access ramp being built. Or take a close look at the west wall, between the church and the tea house, where the brush has been cleared away and the old fire escape torn down, and try to visualize a new, large custom-built matching window that will soon be installed. You can still enter the church up the old concrete steps, but that trip will be much smoother once the concrete is replaced by handsome, cut stone treads. However, I suggest you stay off the scaffolding up to the belfry unless you are given a personal tour by the contractor, Kurt Hoelter. But worry not, for the bell will ring again.

One thing none of us on the building committee have forgotten is the generosity of those who have given freely of their hard earned money and time in order to help the town of Monterey realize it's dream of a renovated meeting house. Though there is still quite a bit of work to be done (and always a need for funds), we remain positive about the project and very happy about the progress.

— John Humphrey
Project Coordinator

© JOHN HUMPHREY

Under construction: scaffolding zig zags up the east side of the Meetinghouse.

HEALTHY KIDS STRONG PARENTS WIC

Free food and nutrition information to pregnant women, infants and children under five.

Women, Infants & Children Program

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

Ask about our office hours in Lee and Otis
54 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230 • (413) 528-0457

Ed Sepanski
Master Electrician
A 15785

Monterey, Ma.
01245-0662

ELECTRICWORKS

Residential and Commercial Electrical Contracting

Phone 528-2715
Fax 528-8946

SWING LOW

© PETER MURKETT

Discussing strategy at softball, (from left to right) Bob Thieriot, Alan Silverstein, Peter Vallianos, Frank Gioia, Steve Miller.

About twenty years ago I sat in a pew toward the front of the Monterey church at Tony Reed's funeral. He had been a friend and fellow member of the Monterey Fire Company, which formed an honor guard on the steps of the church. My near neighbor Wayne Dunlop was there, too, and sometime later I mentioned to him noticing Tony's wooden casket during the service. It was typical, made of laminated number two pine molded into oversized curves, stained dark and highly polished, with brass hardware. Not the way *we* would do it, I said to Wayne. He agreed. In those days we often worked together on projects around our own places—carpentry, plastering, plumbing, electrical work, cutting trees, slaughtering pigs. We did everything (and better, mind you). So we conjured a coffin made of wide pine boards, dovetailed corners, no finish. I thought we could put a mild bend into the sides, giving our box the traditional coffin shape with a special touch. We went right ahead, built a fire under a bathtub outdoors, immersed the ends of two freshly sawed pine boards for a half hour in boiling water, then clamped them to a form and stashed it away, figuring the bend would set as the boards dried over time. A year or more later, when Wayne's grandfather passed away at age 101, we worked late into the night to dovetail these boards into our first coffin, for him.

A corollary of that youthful, can-do spirit is that anything done well can become a business. Surely there was a solid market for this plain pine coffin (presto! a company name: Plain Pine), an honest box to satisfy the universal longing for ceremonial simplicity in materialistic times. I could sell hundreds!

Well, I have made about half a dozen caskets since Tony Reed, at his funeral, inspired Wayne and me to build that coffin for his grandfather. (Note that a casket is by definition a rectangular burial box, whereas a coffin has the elongated, asymmetrical hexagonal shape of the boxes borne dramatically up boot hill in old westerns.) My design has evolved away from bent sides (too much work), and the casket I now make is very plain indeed: four pine boards dovetailed together, with a molded edge cut into the lid and a mitered molding applied around the bottom. There is a knuckle rail along the casket sides above thick rope handles. The plywood bottom is keyed and securely glued into the pine sides, absolute proof against failure. (What funereal horror could be greater than the bottom falling out?) Wrought iron nails (or wooden pins, for Orthodox Jewish ceremonies) are supplied to fasten the handplaned pine lid. No finish. The design is simple but satisfying; there is nothing I would change. I may carve a person's initials in the lid, but that's as fancy as it gets.

On the business side, my "cabinet-quality" caskets are mentioned in a national publication on alternative funerals, also in a Web site on the subject. I receive a steady trickle of inquiries, but sales are rare. In short, don't look for Plain Pine to go public. I remain a furniture maker; my trade in caskets is minimal and irregular, and although the boxes are not cheap, overall return is modest.

In those same can-do days when Wayne and I built that first coffin, I was also friendly with Bob Thieriot, another neighbor. We shared several interests: woodworking and antique tools, the old ways, land preservation, issues of local government. For a winter or two we were hockey teammates at the Monterey rink. I had seen less of Bob in recent years. Then I learned that he had suffered a stroke, and had a brain tumor. One Sunday morning last fall at Greene Park, Bob was delivered to the softball field in his wheelchair to watch the game in which he had been a regular player. I came over from the basketball court to greet him, squeeze his hand and say hi. There were no other words for it, how severe illness highlights passing time, changes in the old neighborhood. His speech was skewed, his eyes were sad and piercing as ever.

It was Wayne Dunlop who called me at my shop on the last day of the year, when it was clear that Bob's death was imminent. He was very close to Bob at the end of his life, caring for him around the clock. The family was considering funeral arrangements, and Wayne wanted to know if there was some way we could come up with a casket on short notice.

Nion Robert Thieriot died on the last day of 1998. Wayne, and then Bob's older brother Peter Thieriot, came to my shop on New Year's Day. Bob was six foot eight inches tall—the same height as Phil Jackson, two inches taller than Michael Jordan. He wouldn't fit in a standard-sized casket, and after some discussion we decided that Wayne would work with me to build a long casket using pine boards Bob had sawed from trees felled on Tall Pine Farm. Peter checked with people at the funeral home, who assured him that the vault supplied would fit the extra-long casket, and we went to work.

Bob had a reverence for trees and woodworking alike. Land conservation was his abiding passion, and although trees represented much more to him than raw material for woodworking, he loved using the antique tools he collected. I met with him a few times years ago in a tiny outbuilding on his place fitted out with shelves and a workbench, crammed with tools. I showed him what I knew about laying out and cutting dovetails with chisel and backsaw, tried to coach him beyond his low opinion of his own work. In those days we both thrilled to the woodworking mastery of the Shakers, for example. Work as if you would live forever and die tomorrow, counseled Mother Ann Lee. Today, decades of extracting a livelihood from shopwork have, for me, worn that thrill down to a hard kernel of plain respect. I hardly differentiate between occupations any more—woodworker, lawyer, storekeeper, farmer, cook—what's the difference? A little startup passion followed by years of work, a good job done over and over, a living earned, and the romance yields to something denser, more polished, durable, down-to-earth. Not so for Bob. I had the sense that he always regarded woodwork as more of a calling than an occupation, that every snug joint and hand-planed surface always kept every penny of its absolute value. His convictions were unshakable. If woodworking was a shared interest, it was also a territory in which our paths diverged.

In the late morning on New Year's Day, Wayne and I drove over to Tall Pine Farm, where we went to the main barn. Bob's place on Wellman Road presented every visitor with a choice of responses. One could relax taking in the evident chaos, the innumerable projects underway but perpetually incomplete, and be relieved that it was his problem, not one's own; or one could get into a good Yankee snit about what a mess it always was, long term and short, from the unfinished buildings to the cars parked overnight on the road with their doors standing open. Would this man *ever* clean up his act? Having a clear purpose and limited time helped steer us through the furniture, farm implements, tools, hay, lumber, vehicles, and stuff packed into the barn. We picked our way into the loft and selected three or four wide pine boards from as many stacks of lumber, and took them back to my shop. Chuck Wyman agreed to run the rough-sawed boards through his planer for us, and we made the trip to his mill in Hartsville. We located some plywood for the casket bottom. Peter Thieriot had wanted us to use Tall Pine lumber exclusively (Bob hated plywood), but after a quick briefing on relative strength and the merits of an overbuilt casket bottom, he agreed to plywood where it counted. After all, it would not be seen—at least not by the living. Bob would object, but hey.

Over the afternoon, we routed dovetail pins on the casket sides, and glued them to the plywood bottom, then shaped the knuckle rails. I used my old wooden-bodied foreplane on the surface of the lid, and routed its molded edge. Bob would have loved the hand planing, scorned the router. He was looking over our shoulders all day, but it was not an unpleasant presence, however brusque and critical. We were doing the job, and well at that. I ruined my first attempt at cutting tails for the joint on one of the short ends, but there was just enough planed lumber for a second try, which fit perfectly. See? I said to Bob.

Early on Saturday we glued up the dovetail joint, and the basic box was complete. It took the rest of the day to cut and fit a molding around the bottom, fasten the knuckle rail, and knot ropes into the sides. Peter stopped by in the afternoon to check on our progress, and agreed that I should carve NRT into the lid. We lightly sanded the joints and surfaces clean, and fitted the lid, drilling holes for the wrought iron nails. I drove the casket to Finnerty and Stevens early Saturday evening.

I was among the last to arrive at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington on the first Monday in 1999, which was sunny and cold, with a brisk northwest wind. The place was full. Speaking from the altar, family and friends recounted the drama of Bob's life, evoking a personality riddled with contradiction. He was orphaned by shipwreck as a boy, saw his farm in California consumed by wildfire, his marriage fall apart after moving to Monterey, his teenaged daughter Janet die of cancer, and had his own life cut short by untimely illness. He used his inherited fortune to purchase thousands of acres of Berkshire land for preservation, brought a successful civil action against the doctors who treated Janet's cancer, and used the proceeds to establish a $1 million endowment to benefit the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. He swung a hammer with Habitat for Humanity, and bicycled every year on Cape Cod to help raise funds for cancer research. He moved, inspired, and exasperated many people. Alice Richmond, an attorney in Boston who worked for nine years with Bob on the malpractice lawsuit, described him as "smart, funny, abrupt, contentious, infuriating, whiny, and critical—sometimes all at the same time." To his brother Peter he was an "oxymoron [who was] generous with the unfortunate, stingy with his own; a whiz with numbers and a truant in financial matters." Peter closed the service, saying "Keep the spirit. A big tree that falls opens up space and light for the younger trees."

Around noon, a long line of cars pulled slowly into Corashire Cemetery. A large group gathered at the at the gravesite to hear the final words, which turned out to be prelude to one last stubborn episode. Prayers were intoned, holy water and ashes were cast, and mourners tossed hemlock boughs onto the casket. It was lowered no more than a foot before it was obvious that the vault was too small. Kirk Jones, a friend who had helped out at Tall Pine Farm in the final weeks, was standing near me. "Don't make it easy, Bob," he called out softly. Attendants from the funeral home cranked the casket back up, and after a hasty, awkward discussion with Wayne and me and Eric Pedersen, who was dressed for work (applause from Bob), with his van full of tools parked nearby, we decided to cut the moldings off the ends to shorten the casket's overall length. We set it sideways across the open grave. Wayne and I (dressed for a funeral) set to work with chisel and plane, scattering shavings. In the wind coming across the Webb's open field my nose ran and my hands froze. Soon the moldings were flush at the foot end of the box, and Wayne started on the head end, but the attendants, anxious to get on with it, told him we had removed plenty and it would certainly fit now. Mourners regrouped for the final moment again, and the casket

was lowered a second time, but no farther than the first. Still too long. Up again, and across the grave, the rails our makeshift workbench. As some began to drift away, heading for Tall Pine Farm, where they could come in out of the cold to a fine spread of food and drink, we chiseled and planed the moldings on the head end flush with the box. The third time, as I tossed a few farewell wood chips onto the casket, it started down into the molded plastic liner of the concrete vault, but the liner tapered toward its bottom, and the box got stuck partway in. With a nod from Peter Thieriot, Wayne jumped onto the casket to see if he could force it into the grave, but no. The attendants started to winch it up a third time, but the crank handle was small, not designed for extra-heavy lifting. The straps got very taut, but the box would not rise. Wayne jumped down again, and with a sharp kick on the tight straps jarred the casket loose.

By now, only immediate family and three or four of us builder types remained, along with some worried people from the funeral home, and the backhoe operator who was waiting to backfill the grave he had dug. Consultation over possible solutions: How long would it take to get a larger vault, if that was even possible? Should they take the casket back to the funeral home? How big *was* the vault anyway? No one had measured! Eric got a tape from his van and we determined that another three-quarters of an inch off the length of the box on its lower half, and it would go. Wayne was intent on completing the job. He suggested we cut kerfs in both end-boards, then chisel and plane across the lower surface of each. That way we could shorten the box just enough without violating its integrity. It was agreed. Eric produced a fine antique slick (a type of extra-large chisel—cheers from Bob) and a sharp Japanese pull-saw. We cut and pared and planed, tapering the box to fit the vault, then measured our work. On the fourth try, the casket was lowered all the way down.

Bob Thieriot was a big man and a large presence, not often easy right to the end. It was good, hard work laying him to rest. Peace, neighbor.

— Peter Murkett

MUSINGS ON AN ODYSSEY

There is a story that two Italian fishermen, while repairing their nets, found a wood carving lying on the shore. They took it to the local parish priest. He, along with the fishermen, thought it to be an omen of good things to come. Sure enough, it was not too long before the fortunes of the two fishermen changed for the good. When the news spread about the good fortune of the fishermen, others came to visit the carving that the priest had placed in a grotto outside the church.

Over the years many people came from all over Italy and beyond. All sorts of miracles were attributed to this wood figure. Out of respect and gratitude many of the wealthy visitors left tokens such as jewels, crowns, robes, etc. This continued for many, many years, even centuries.

One day a couple of people were cleaning around the grotto and grounds. One asked, "What do you think is underneath all the jewels, robes, and other gifts?" The other replied, "Let's find out." So they began to take away the many layers that had built up over the years. Soon they came to the small wood carving. They exclaimed, "Why it's a figure of Jesus!"

This was a story that was told by a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church who was attending preparatory sessions for the now famous Vatican Council called by Pope John XXIII. He used the story to describe the purpose, as he understood it, for calling the Council; namely, a return to basics. What is the Church all about? What is it's purpose for existence? Unfortunately, that effort continues to be thwarted by vested interests. And so it is with the Protestant church and, I believe, with all religious institutions. We are easily distracted by all the baubles and beads of ritual and dogma. Lost is the core, the heart. As the cleaners at the Italian grotto learned, the heart of the shrine lay in the rediscovering of Jesus.

It is easy to get caught up with what our society considers the marks of success: large crowds attending church, overflowing coffers, building programs, etc. I am just as susceptible as the next person when it come to wanting to see all those signs in Monterey. But, underneath all that, I know that those signs are irrelevant. They have nothing to do with what the Christian gospel is all about. For me, the gospel is the proclamation, by word and deed, of the rule of God as embodied in Jesus' life and ministry. Nothing more, nothing less. The rest is all meaningless, baubles and beads, unless it is faithful to that truth.

I mention this because ministry, as I have known and practiced it, no longer seems valid. Maybe it has to do with my father's passing, or maybe the approaching millennium. Possibly it's a hormonal imbalance. At any rate, I am realizing that I no longer have either the energy of commitment to "do ministry" as I have done it in the past. It strikes me as being hollow, not faithful to the fundamental truth that I noted above. I am not interested in meeting other people's expectations about what they think a minister should be or do. To say the least it is tiring. I have enough to do to live my own life, never mind other people's. So where does that leave me? I have no idea! But stay tuned.

— Keith Snow

Hartsville Design
Architectural Woodwork

Historic Millwork
Moldings WIndows Doors
Staircases

Custom Cabinetry
Kitchen and Baths
Fine Furniture

Kevin Regan
Phone/Fax 413-528-1202

Old Grange Hall RT 57 Hartsville, Ma
Box 86 HC 65 Gt. Barrington, Ma 01230

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Senior Pharmacy and Shine programs are administered locally by Elder Services of Berkshire County and are designed to help seniors by reducing the costs of prescription drugs and assist Medicare beneficiaries with health insurance and related problems.

Senior Pharmacy presently provides a yearly benefit of up to $750. Individual annual income should be $12,084 or less, a person should be sixty five or older and a Massachusetts resident for six months, and have no prescription drug coverage through any insurance plan or Medicaid.

The Shine program (Serving Health Insurance Information Needs of Elders) offers assistance to Medicare beneficiary's by helping them to understand Medicare, billing problems, or any other related health insurance issues. For information on both programs call Elder Services of Berkshire County at 1-800-544-5242. The programs are sponsored by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

UPDATE...

The stars are set in their courses. Flowers are starting to bloom on the hills.

This isn't an astrological column or a premature report of spring. It's an update from the Monterey Piecemakers, who have an intense case of the winter blues.

Winter blues and whites, that is. The quilt we're working on to benefit Bidwell House is made of a variety of blues on a crisp white-on-white ground.

We're busy piecing, quilting, even embroidering. Word in the quilting cicle is that we'll have an even harder time letting go of this one than we did releasing the Meeting House Quilt last summer. Start saving for your raffle tickets now!

WE'VE MOVED!

PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC.

(Formerly on Main Road next to Roadside Store)

After almost 18 years of operation on Main Road in Monterey, we were finally forced to admit that we had outgrown our two locations here in town. So we've relocated to a 4800 sq. ft. facility (soon to be 7200 sq. ft. with a new state-of-the-art paint department) on Route 7, 1.5 miles south of the old fairgrounds. We'd like to invite all of our friends and customers to stop in and say hello, to take a look around our new shop. And as always, we offer free pickup and delivery, and lifetime collision repair and PPG paint guarantees. Thank you for your support.

413-528-1457 1-800-734-1457

1939 No. Main Street (Route 7) Sheffield, MA 01257

MA Licensed Repair Shop RS1006 - Bonded in Mass. Visa - Discover - Mastercard - American Express accepted

Munson Satellite Tv

• 18" Dishes
• Standard Satellite
• Tv Antenna
and
• Cable Tv Systems;
Installed and Repaired
• Commercial/
Residential Wiring

38 West Hubbard Rd., Sandisfield, MA 01255

Call or Fax: George Munson (413) 258-4887

SHADOW OF A SOLAR MAMMAL

The celebration of Groundhog Day on February 2, 1999, brings to modern times an animated observance of the arrival of midwinter. Like the celebration of Brigid (also on February 2) that was conceived by medieval minds, perhaps Groundhog Day serves to lift our spirits in celebration of the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. The waxing light elevates the human psyche from the depths of the darkest season of the year.

Six weeks from the first day of winter.
Six weeks until at last it's over.

Once again the homemade yarn of the groundhog and it's shadow is spun like a spider's web over the lofty rafters of the winter zodiac. Hanging there like a dream catcher, the tale reminds us that the days are growing longer and presents a hopeful image the coming of spring.

In Europe, the badger traditionally plays this role of a living sentinel of meteorology, (instead of the groundhog) and in countries further north it is the bear that annually emerges from hibernation to herald a prediction of the severity of weather still to come.

The groundhog, called a woodchuck on this side of the Atlantic, keeps a naturally low profile spending most of the time in dark subterranean chambers. Feeding time is early morning and late afternoon when it's shadow is less visible, and the grass is measured by it's light meter as always greener during these dimmer hours. Thus there may be lore and logic for the woodchuck to be punctually conjured up at the solar "low noon" of midwinter. Then, if it sees it's shadow, the groundhog drops down below to sleep away for a long six weeks. But if the day is overcast it is a sure sign of an early spring.

The science of astronomy seems to support some facts leading up to the supposition of this scenario. By using the "solunar" tables to compute the position of the sun and the moon relative to the earth, prime periods of animal activity are predictable for each day of the month. According to these calculations, for February 2, 1999, most wildlife would begin to stir soon after the zenith. It is also known that even the most deeply hibernating animals come out of their dens during a midwinter's thaw, when the time piece of intersecting celestial cycles triggers the mechanism of a biological alarm clock waking them up, giving some rhyme or reason to the fable.

When the sign of the sun
With the wash of the moon
Meet on earth in the afternoon.

However if one should choose to walk our country roads on this day, the shy four-footed vegetarian hero of our play will not be on stage. Instead you are more likely to see signs of a two-legged species on four wheels who litters the path with trash, bottles, beer cans, and fast food containers. A disregard for cleanliness of the landscape and the ecological character of the historical main road through Monterey, casts a dark shadow upon the beauty of the Berkshires.

Article and drawing by
— George Emmons

GOULD FARM

Winter has settled in around us, but we still get out to work and find ways to amuse ourselves amidst the snow, freezing rain and cold winds. Folks have been skiing, skating, and playing hockey. We have a team in the Monterey hockey league, and those of us who can't drive a puck come and watch the action from the sidelines. We've also been playing basketball in a nicely heated indoor gym at the Kolburne School, thanks to their generosity in sharing their space with us.

We had a busy holiday season, filled with visitors, traditions and good food. We brought down our Christmas tree from the woods, had a progressive dinner during Hanukkah, staged our annual live nativity tableau in the sheep barn, and welcomed many former community members back for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinner.

We began a new project this winter, too: selling our farm products by mail order. It has been quite successful in its first few months. We've been sending out our syrup, pancake mix, mint tea, granola, and salad dressing. If you're interested in making an order, give us a call! (528-1804)

— Heidi Haverkamp

MONTEREY
A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

$30 postpaid
Box 324, Monterey, MA 01245
Checks to "150th Anniversary Celebration"

ENIGMA

My first is in summer, not in June,
My second in mountain, not in hill,
My third not in stars but it is in moon,
My next is in river also in rill,
My fifth is in island not in land,
And my sixth not in dune though it is in sand,
And my last though it is hard to find,
You can see it here at the end of this line.
What am I?

Find the letters that spell the answer.

— Eleanor Kimberley

Answer: sunrise.

The Roadside Store & Cafe

Owned and operated by the Gould Farm Community

On Route 23
in Monterey, Massachusetts

Open from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm
'til 1:30pm on Wed

Breakfast and lunch served all day, made with Farm-grown ingredients. Call 528-2633 for daily specials.

Custom Woodwork & Interiors

Carpentry • Custom Furniture
Shelving • Furniture Repairs
Household Repairs • Interior
and Decorative Painting, etc.

Richard B. Migot

3 New Hartford Rd., Sandisfield, MA 01255
Tel: (413) 258-4904
Fax: 258-8122

Master Lic. No. 15186 A

Fully Insured

Phone & Fax 413-528-5444

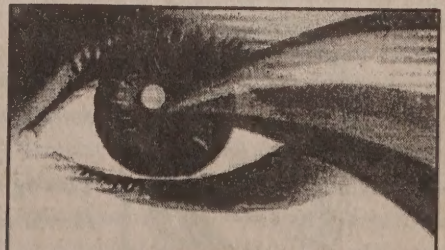
DAN ANDRUS ELECTRICIAN

MAIN ROAD
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Generators & Alternative Energy

Phone & Cable TV

Residential & Commercial Wiring



DAVID FEINBERG, CLT
Certified Light Therapist
Vision Enhancement • Yoga for the Eyes
Transformative Nutrition
Full Spectrum Lighting Products
Healing, Teaching & Counseling
50 Hupi Rd., PO Box 361
Monterey, MA 01245 • 413-528-0228

REMEMBERING BOB

Bob Thieriot, my friend and neighbor of twenty years, passed away on December 31. I first met Bob in my parent's kitchen at the time when he was buying the Wellman Farm on Wellman Road (which he later renamed "Tall Pine Farm"). I studied this seven-foot tall man as he stated that he was buying the farm to grow four acres of vegetables. He said that he was particularly fond of growing melons, which of course are almost impossible to grow in the Berkshires. I scratched my head, saying to myself: "Here is a man buying a beautiful, moderately-sized farm in the Berkshires, that he intends to support by growing four acres of vegetables—and melons! I'll have to see this." Well, he did grow those vegetables, and through twenty years, Bob touched my life in ways beyond our mutual interests in farming and land preservation.

In the 1980's, Bob participated in the Pan Mass Challenge, raising funds and riding his bicycle for cancer. The money raised was donated to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston to be used for cancer research and treatment. Bob coaxed me to join him in the event. In the spring of 1988, Bob's teenage daughter Janet became sick with an undiagnosed medical problem. It was not until July of that year—four days before our bike ride—that Janet was found to have cancer. Bob

One year ago, big Bob with Environmental Affairs secretary Trudy Coxe.

was spending most of his time at Albany Medical Center. He was exhausted but wanted to ride for Janet. Janet wanted the same, so Bob decided he would take a bus to the Cape and ride the last half of the 200 mile trip on Sunday.

That Saturday night, he spoke in front of 1,000 people, telling them about Janet's battle with cancer. On Sunday Bob, myself and 1500 other bikers rode eighty five miles into Provincetown. There we boarded a ferry back to Boston. As Bob laid stretched out on a bottom bunk, hundreds of people came by to sign a poster that he would later give to Janet. That poster stayed with Janet until her death less than a year later. I will never forget that event, and I thought about it when Bob was struggling with cancer himself.

My most heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported my fund raising efforts for the Pan Mass Challenge and the fight against cancer. I hope to continue my participation in this event in the future, for Bob and Janet. I miss them both.

— Roger Tryon

BENCHMARK REAL ESTATE

Serving the Southern Berkshires, with special attention to Vacation Home properties, for almost two decades

Nancy K. Kalodner, ABR, CRS, GRI

Past Massachusetts State REALTOR® of the Year

Listing & Selling Berkshire Properties 7 Days A Week

For Personal, Professional Real Estate Services Call

VILLAGE CENTER, MONTEREY – Tel: 413-528-9595
Res: 413-528-2994

VILLAGE CENTER, OTIS – Tel. 413-269-4089

MERRIMAC SMOKED FISH INC.

ALTERATIONS
CUSTOM TAILORING

ARRIE
528-1943

Weekends best — Leave message

EAGLE FEATHERS

It is in some ways curious that American students appear to lag behind their counterparts in the rest of the developed world in mathematics. U.S. technological advances that rely so heavily upon understanding and application of sophisticated mathematical formulae have been at the forefront in so many areas that one naturally assumes that some of our graduates must be fairly able number crunchers. The position of U.S. mathematics achievement compared to the rest of the world not withstanding, there is unquestioned pressure on math teachers and departments in all public schools to improve the preparation of all of our students in math. The new statewide curriculum standards and the MCAS tests provide well-defined objectives for this initiative.

We are fortunate to have a particularly able and dedicated person heading up the mathematics instructional effort in the Southern Berkshire Schools. I am confident that our math program will continue to make very good, forward progress because Jim Thomas is so determined to have our students produce first-rate results and to profit academically from their successes. Jim is an outstanding classroom instructor, who sets a rigorous pace for his students, and not surprisingly obtains their best efforts as a result. Clear and reasonably demanding expectations are the rule in Jim's math classes, and students often find that they can accomplish more than they might have predicted because their teacher believes in pushing them to extend their reach.

As the K-12 mathematics teacher-leader, Jim is endeavoring to organize the math instructional effort at all levels in a manner that will guarantee real progress for all students. He is responsible for several key initiatives that have helped make the mathematics experience in the Southern Berkshire Schools more effective. Accelerated math classes in all grades from five through twelve are permitting the interested and able math students to proceed to a more complex level of study on a schedule that is most appropriate for them. Also, the push to revise the high school math schedules in grades nine and ten to include 180 meetings of forty five minutes each, instead of the half year block format, has improved the math opportunity for students in the early high school grades. This structural change is credited to Mr. Thomas, and it now appears that the world language teachers are going to have the same advantage of a full year schedule as well. This schedule adaptation demonstrates the importance of having time be the servant of the curriculum instead of the other way around.

Jim Thomas is working hard and very effectively to make the Southern Berkshire match experience one that makes a real difference for students. An Eagle Feather with perfect symmetry for our numbers leader.

Fox resigns. Southern Berkshire business administrator Kevin Fox's announcement at the January 7 School Committee meeting, that he would be returning to Melanson and Heath with an opportunity to become a partner in the firm, was not one that anyone in the Southern Berkshire district was anxious to hear. Kevin has been a major force in the effort to right the financial ship that had some big holes in the bow and lots of other places as well. He is a no-nonsense numbers person who brought to Southern Berkshire the attitude and skill needed to stop the bleeding and develop a plan to regroup. I can well imagine why his former firm is so eager to have this talented hard-working professional return to the fold. After we get over feeling sad about the district's loss, we should also have an opportunity to express our admiration for the promotion that Kevin has received.

Janet's Fund update. The many wonderful contributions of Bob Thieriot to the Southern Berkshire schools during the past twenty years were recounted in comments made by friends and family at his funeral in early January. Bob was not only very generous with the strategic contribution of resources to support various school initiatives, but he also invested heavily in the mission and spirit of this school community where he felt welcomed and where, he believed, that his youngsters were very well served in their academic and social preparation.

With Bob's passing, the Janet's Fund program will be changed to an endowment account and be constituted in a manner similar to the Eagle fund. Only interest or dividends earned by the Janet's Fund account will be used for the annual grant award endeavor. This change in the long run will serve the district very well, because the funds will never be exhausted.

— William Cooper, Superintendent
Southern Berkshire Regional School District

MONTEREY MASONRY

NEW PHONE:
413-229-0475
NEW FAX:
413-229-0478
NEW ADDRESS:
BOX 58,
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01257

- CUSTOM BRICK, STONE, AND STUCCO WORK
- SPECIALIZING IN 18th AND 19th CENTURY RESTORATION
- RUMFORD FIREPLACES
- CHIMNEYS REPAIRED AND REBUILT
- BRICK AND STONE PAVING, WALLS, TERRACES, GARDENS
- LIME PLASTERING

EXPERIENCED AND INSURED
— SINCE 1982 —

TEA WITH PROMETHEUS

(late winter musing in E minor)

the way pine boughs cradle
the freshly fallen snow
I hold the purity
of the womb of winter
tea with Prometheus
behind frozen windows
discussing the poetic
gestures of ferns in frost
the inward gaze of us all
on the source of steam

my romance is masked in
holding up these four walls
but Father, Husband, and
Lover indeed persist
we must endure all ad-
olescence, all ignorance
all mindlessness and pride
not only our own

don't introduce me to
your cool undertakers
with their green potatoes
and their foxglove teas
I need the Medicine
woman of the Four Winds
the one who would never
overlook the obvious
in her search for the secret
name of suffering
I envy the flirting
pheasants of February
and the maples surging
in the growing sunlight

give me the Spirit, not
spirituality
full of raw sound and wrong
notes, fresh tunes and lyrics
the cold, crackling among
the columns of oaks
lift the lead from these legs
unclot this womb of fear
the Promise of Prometheus
in the waking seed!

— R. Zukowski

DEEP WINTER ON HUPI ROAD

For W.A.

These trees are black harp strings
against the snow
and the luminous lingering of wet-beech leaves
trembles such graceful whispers
in the gathering dark

these dry yet golden leaves are the last
to remember us walking ever together
never to part

this soft drip of melting drops
these iced pine boughs bending
all a hushed requiem for you

this longing
is breaking my heart.

— A.O. Howell

A BERKSHIRE WINTER

The naked trees like skeletons now stand,
Staunch silhouettes against a sunset sky...
Their ice-clad branches creaking in the wind
While from chimneys plumes of smoke are rising high.
Old Boreas his organ-music plays
And often howls and whistles through the night,
Dipping and whirling in frolicsome ways
Piling the snow into mountains of white.
Then there are days in winter when the sun
Spreads scores of diamonds on the crusted snow
Though conifers are bending to the ground
The howling, boisterous, winds has ceased to blow...
So peaceful is the stillness when the wind
Seems lost to oblivion once more
And flocks of birds, to feed, come sailing in,
Casting fleet shadows on my kitchen floor.

— Eleanor Kimberley

WINTER CONFESSION

why do i choose to live with you?
you, a bed with icy, silk sheets.
such a frigid lover,
always leaving open a window,
seducing me year after year.
you are not so subtle
with naked trees and slate skies,
enough to send any man packing
to the pleasures of a Caribbean sea:
to the warmth of mother's womb.
then like a flirting virgin,
you send down soft crystal flakes,
giving the landscape it's diamond illusion,
gently pulling me in,
calling me to your breast
with a soft December whisper,
knowing i will never leave you,
because i am in love.

— John Humphrey

PAN: THE JANITOR

The school is closed, the children gone.
He sighs, old man hitching up the sagging pants,
fetching the broom to sweep history before him
broken to fine dust and abandoned:
crayon stubs, clips, gum wrapper, the broken Acropolis—
oh, but for a beer!

then on down the lockered hall and into the music room
the instruments alert in silence:
triangles, drums, xylophone, and lo, in the corner:
the Pipes of Pan!

the shadow lengthens, the broom begins its hairy beat,
his feet to tap, his jaw to wag,
till suddenly with a huge joyous shout
he seizes the pipes, sits crosslegged again
(though on a paint-stained table)

to pipe and sway and sway and pipe
the liquid ululating plaint until
his haunt of Mount Hymettus looms through purple haze—
(pellucid nymphs flee gleefully here between the olive trees!)

Ho! for prancing and dancing an orgy like the old days,
his fine hoofs capering up the rocks
him leering and winking
and they covering this hot spicy old goat
with fair garlands of fragrance and kisses!

— A.O. Howell

THE FAMILY NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

The Family Network is located at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington: call 528-0721 for more information. All activities are at the Family Center, unless otherwise noted.

Parent to Parent Volunteer training will be held in February and March. Once trained, volunteers will be matched with an area parent who has requested additional support or assistance. Volunteers can help with transportation, emotional support, and information of area services. A year's service is asked of volunteers. For more information and for an application, please call Claudette.

A few tips on how to promote kindness in young children, from the book *Raising Kind Children* by Janet A. Clark, University Extension, University of Missouri-Columbia. From approximately eight to eighteen months children begin to understand that their own behavior can make another child/adult happy or sad. (If I make a silly face at Andrew, he will smile and I laugh) Children can understand adult instructions for kind behavior when words are combined with actions. (Be gentle with the baby and then the adult softly strokes the baby's cheek.) At two to three years children begin to show empathic behavior. For instance a child may spontaneously comfort a crying peer. Also at this age a child begins to comply more often with adult requests for socially responsible behavior, and more willingly takes turns, says "please" and "thank you" and helps clean up at home and in the classroom. From four to six years children start to recognize the concept of fairness. (His piece of cake is bigger than mine.) Children begin to understand that selfish behavior may be wrong: If I use all of the playdough, no one else will be able to play with it. Children at this age will engage in more kinds of empathic behavior. They can share, comfort, protect and encourage, and plan in advance to do something nice for another person. (When these winter clothes are too small, I can give them to someone who doesn't have enough winter clothes.)

Drop-in times at Great Barrington site, Mondays and Fridays, noon-2 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m.; Thursdays, 10-noon. For other times, please call to make an appointment. Otis site, Town Hall, second floor, Thursdays, 10-noon.

Every Monday and Friday, Play and Learn Group for three and four year olds, registration required, 9-11 a.m. Please call to pre-register.

Every Tuesday, Mother-Baby Exercise Class, 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required and childcare will be provided.

Every Tuesday, English As A Second Language, (ESL) 9:30 a.m. Friday classes are at 12 noon-2 p.m. Childcare provided. Please call to register.

Every Wednesday, Parent-Child Playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Every Thursday, Parent-Child Playgroup will be held at the Family Center in Great Barrington, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Some special events will also be planned on Thursdays.

During the week of February Vacation, February 22-26, no playgroups will be held. The Center will be open for drop-in times.

The February Calendar is as follows:

February 1, Helping Siblings To Get Along, a parenting workshop led by Gretchen Courage, 6:30 p.m. Lee Youth Association, Childcare available, call 243-5535 to register.

February 2, What to do when my kids are driving me crazy! Conflict resolution led by Nancy Eggen, Women's Support Services, Northwestern Connecticut, 7 p.m. Sponsored by the licensed daycare provider group and open to everyone. Call to register.

February 8, Father-Child Valentine Fun, 5:30 p.m. Light supper. Call to register.

February 9, Sandisfield playgroup will hold senior day. Senior citizens are invited to join the families for valentine fun, 9:30 a.m. Community Center.

February 10, Becket playgroup will hold Senior Day. Senior citizens are invited to join the families for valentine fun, 9:30 a.m. Town Hall.

February 10, Big Brother, Big Sister Sibling Preparation class led by Mary Jane Sackett, RN, 3:30 p.m. Call to register.

February 10, First Aid class led by Marsha Harvey, RN, 6 p.m. Call to register.

February 11, Helping Siblings To Get Along led by Gretchen Courage, 6 p.m. Undermountain Elementary School, Childcare available. Call 229-8754 to register.

February 11, 18, 25, March 3 and **11,** Parent to Parent Volunteer Training, 6-8 p.m. Please call to register.

February 15, Presidents Day holiday, Center is closed. No playgroups.

February 17, Right Question Workshop, "How to Advocate For Your Children in Schools and Other Places", led by Lilliana Bermudez, 6 p.m. Call to register and for childcare needs:

February 20, Father-Child Playgroup, 10:30 a.m.

February 22, Helping Siblings To Get Along led by Gretchen Courage, 6 p.m. Call to register and for childcare needs.

February 24, Winter Picnic-indoors, 10:30 a.m. Activities and stories.

February 25, March 3, 11, 18, 25 , Parenting discussion group series, come meet other parents and discuss various parenting strategies. Led by Gretchen Courage, 1- 2:30 p.m. Call to register and for childcare needs.

Linda Rabiner Hebert
Broker Associate, GRI, CRS, CRB

CENTURY 21 A. Perras Realty, Inc.
30 Stockbridge Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Office (413) 528-4880
6 Tyringham Road
Monterey, MA 01245
Residence (413) 528-3440
Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

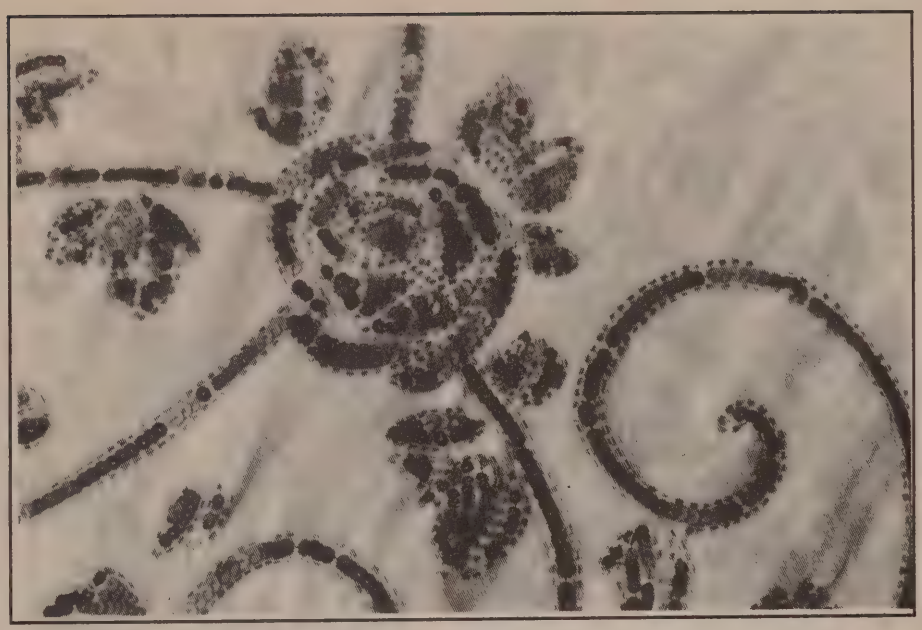
HAVE NEEDLE; WILL (TIME) TRAVEL

A Golden Legacy

Harriet Kempton was a member of a Tory family which migrated to Nova Scotia for the duration of the "unpleasantness" in the colonies. When she married and became known as Hattie Pinkham, she joined a clan that had originally left England to establish some of the first settlers' homes on Nantucket. By the time Hattie and her husband set up their home in Boston during the mid-1800s, the Pinkhams had come a long way socially as well as geographically.

The sole remaining piece of her wardrobe might have kept Hattie warm from carriage to dinner party, but the silk-lined gold velvet opera cape was never designed to withstand the hard labor or salty drenching of a Nantucket sleigh ride. Made in about 1890, it now belongs to Hattie's granddaughter, Jan Emmons.

The cape falls in an elegant A-line from a eight-paneled velvet and silk rolled collar to a fifteen-inch border of silhouetted roses at the hem. The original threads still hold the black sequins and pewter grey bugle beads of the flower design in place. "Hattie was a tiny woman who wore a size one shoe," Jan said. But the cape, hand stitched by Hattie's dressmaker, could only have been worn successfully by a woman whose sense of her own presence belied her childlike size.



© MAGGIE LEONARD

Design detail reveals handiwork on a vintage opera cape.

Secure enough in herself to follow her own inclinations, Hattie gave her husband's gifts of good jewelry to the coalman's wife and indulged herself with innumerable pieces of the gaudy glass mosaic jewelry which she loved. Her son, Clifford, Jan's father, was horrified.

But Nantucket loves all her children and passes no judgment on their aesthetic sense. The small island stands a stalwart sentinel to the North Atlantic and waits patiently, looking out to sea in the hope that her sailors, whalers, entrepreneurs, their wives and descendants will all come home. Perhaps someday Jan and George will reward the island's constancy with a first visit. If they do, Jan plans to sleuth out more of the family history. May she discover legacies exciting as a Nantucket sleigh ride and elegant as Hattie's gold cape.

— MaryKate Jordan

DR. JERROLD RAAB

Dentist

All phases of dentistry

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Service · 10 a.m.

in the Meeting House

Keith Snow, Pastor

For Information and Assistance:

Judy Hayes 528-1874

MaryKate Jordan 528-5557

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

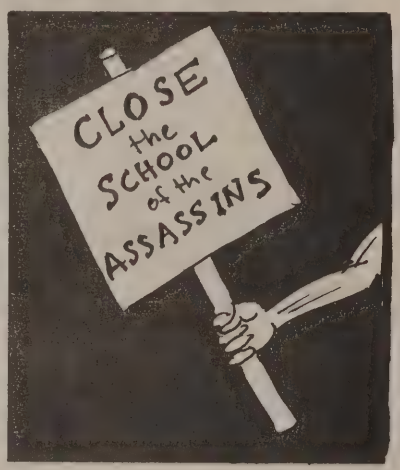
MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA

On November 22, 1998, four young people from Monterey joined the more than 7,000 who travelled to Fort Benning in Georgia to take a stand for justice, for peace, for human rights. Fort Benning is a U.S. military reservation and is home to the "School of the Americas," known to many as the School of the Assassins. For the third year in a row, people of conscience from all over the U.S. and several Central and Latin American countries have climbed onto buses and planes to make this pilgrimage to Georgia, to deliver symbolic crosses and coffins to the School of the Americas and to speak the names of some of the thousands who have died at the hands of its infamous graduates.

If you have never heard of the S.O.A. or of these annual demonstrations (and arrests), it is because there has been very little coverage in the national news. Word has spread through local newspapers, thanks to letters and articles by the people who have been down to Fort Benning and come home committed to telling their stories. The stories have been brought home to Monterey, this year, by Ainsley Brodhead, Nathan Backus, Paul Thomko, and Michal Lunsden. I was lucky to hear them speak at South Berkshire Friends Meeting on a Sunday in January, and recently I went over to Gould Farm, where they live and work, to learn more about them and their activism.

"I don't consider myself an activist," Ainsley told me. "I do service-oriented work and I participated in anti-war demonstrations during the Gulf War, but my participation in these things was more passive." All four friends from Monterey felt fortunate to be able to go to Georgia. They were supported by their workplace, where arrangements were made for them to miss four days of work, and the experience in Georgia was well-organized by School of the Americas Watch. They attended workshops on non-violence training on Saturday and prepared to be arrested the next day.

I asked Nathan if he had ever been arrested before. "No," he said, "I've never participated in a big demonstration before, even though I have often been appalled by



what I hear in the news. I never felt I had the opportunity, or could take the time off." Nathan is from Detroit, Michigan, and says his parents were both activists in the late '60's and early '70's, in Ann Arbor.

The four young demonstrators rode in a rickety van for more than twenty hours, straight through, to Georgia. They had expected this to be a grueling trip, but in fact the long ride gave them their first exciting taste of solidarity with their fellow travellers. During the trip Michal and Paul made the decision to "cross the line" at Fort Benning, along with Ainsley and Nathan. Those demonstrators who crossed the line onto the military reservation had been warned they would be arrested. Last year the people who crossed the line had their names taken, were fed a good meal by courteous soldiers, and were transported off the base in busses, with the warning that a second offense would put them in prison for six months. Last year, the people for whom this was a second such arrest, were sentenced to prison and served six-month sentences.

"It was so little to do, to take four days and go to Georgia. We had been to hear a couple speak back in the fall and they had both gone to prison. They felt that was so little to give of themselves," the Monterey demonstrators said.

On that Sunday in November, more than 2,000 people crossed the line, including Martin Sheen, the movie actor who has taken up this and other social reform causes. Father Roy Bourgeois spoke, and there were Native American drummers and speakers and people from Chiapas, Mexico, where graduates of the School of the Americas have been been major oppressors in the "low-intensity conflict" in that state. If the 2,000 had been arrested, as had been threatened (and done in other years), this action would have constituted the biggest mass arrest in the history of the United States, and maybe we would have heard about it. So it's no wonder the decision was made not to arrest.

Michal Lunsden, 19, is from Cleveland where she was editor of her school paper and had been interested in U.S. Central American policy. "This was the first opportunity I'd had to do anything," she said, and now she plans to go to UMass to study in the "Social Thought and Political Economics" program there. All four of the Monterey demonstrators want to be "catalysts for justice" now, to find ways to answer questions, to give information. Wherever they are next November, they will be helping others get onto busses for Georgia. Nathan said, "This was a hopeful event. People are becoming aware and they won't stand idly by. It gave me faith in humanity."

It gives me faith in humanity to hear these four tell their stories, to hear them tell of their faith. If you want to keep up with School of the Americas Watch, you can get them at www.soaw.org or PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017. The next demonstration to close the SOA will be May 1-4, with a White House Rally, a Pentagon Civil Disobedience Action, and a vigil on the US Capitol steps. At least four people will be going from Monterey.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Christopher Blair
DESIGN AND PLANNING
Residential Design
Kitchen/Bath Design
Construction Management
Project Representation
413.528.4960 32 Mahaiwe Street, Great Barrington, MA

WILDLIFE SURVEY

Now is the beautiful time when the natural world seems to pause for breath under its covering of snow and freeze-up. It is actually an interim for a sort of twilight sleep for the hibernating animals, who, like the plants go into a period of suspended animation. A few plants, like the conifers (all except the larch), holly, rhododendron, laurel, Christmas ferns, and watercress, go on making chlorophyll. It is a reminder that this process which keeps the rest of us on the food chain alive, still goes on and will come back to full force at the right time. The birds who stay with us and the animals who stay active have remarkable adaptations to the cold weather, including special fur and feathers. The predators have incredible (to us!) senses of hearing and smelling to get them through the lean times when the teeming supermarket of mice and voles have partial protection under the snow.

And it is the snow that is the wildlife surveyor's best friend. When conditions are right, even the most secret nocturnal doings of the four-footed creatures are writ large on the ground for all to see, the next morning.

Dale Duryea reports the tracks of five different coyotes around his place and he has learned that one particularly large and healthy deer came through the hunting season unscathed. A red fox is still patrolling the margin of Lake Garfield, deer are eating old apples and crabapples off the trees, porcupines are lumbering from tree to tree where they climb high up to the tender bark of the smaller branches and twigs. Bears are conspicuous by their absence, denned up for the winter. Wild turkeys are back on the oak ridges where they are scratching up acorns with their powerful legs and claws.

Dale has had a lot of squirrel calls. These lively acrobats see your house as a particularly attractive hollow tree with surprising goodies stored there. If squirrels have found access into your house, more will come, no matter how many you kill. The best solution is to inspect thoroughly for gaps in your defenses, especially around foundations and up under the eaves. If all else fails, camphor flakes sprinkled around food storage places actually do keep squirrels away.

The winter birds. Though there is a general migration of hawks south towards more open hunting grounds, a few stay around and make do with smaller birds and rodents in the snow. A red tailed hawk flew alongside Dale's truck on a recent trip in New Marlboro. Some of the insectivorous migratory birds develop vegetarian habits and winter over or at least stay on later than the rest. Our warm, open December encouraged some of these, as reported in last month's survey. Storrs Olds saw two bluebirds on Brett Road, December 12 and a half-dozen other birds of the same size who also might have been bluebirds. At Gould Farm, Bob Rausch reported that on January 26 Marian Latham and others saw at least twenty robins in a field and that they later flew over carrying red berries. The "regular" winter birds are firmly in place: juncos, nuthatches, chickadees, woodpeckers, bluejays, crows, ravens, grouse, partridges, and wild turkeys. The jet black crows and ravens are especially noticeable against the snow.

Fox sightings. On January 13 Bonnie Cox spied a fox in the side yard of her Steven's Lake property, and on that same day Maggie Leonard saw a fox at the edge of the field at the entrance to Steven's Lake.

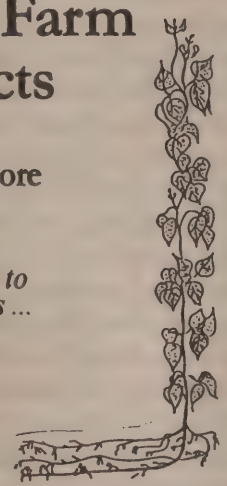
Sumac berries. The dusky red of the sumac berry clusters is striking these days, along the roadside. Sometimes they are all tipped in the same direction so that a sumac clump looks like a flock of very tall red-headed geese, all looking at the same thing. The berries, steeped in hot water, give off a lemony aroma, and make a tea, full of Vitamin C, that has been called "country lemonade."

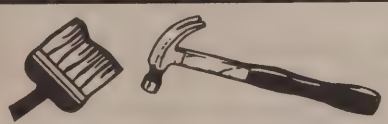
— David P. McAllester

Gould Farm Products
at the Roadside Store

You come to our tables ... take us to yours!

Call Amy, 528-2633
Gift baskets available.





Custom Woodwork & Interiors

Carpentry • Custom Furniture
Shelving • Furniture Repairs
Household Repairs • Interior
and Decorative Painting, etc.

Richard B. Migot

3 New Hartford Rd., Sandisfield, MA 01255
Tel: (413) 258-4904
Fax: 258-8122

Serving Monterey for over 20 years Call Jay 528-5099

JAY AMIDON PAINTING

Clean, Orderly, and Accommodating
Staining · Painting · Interior · Exterior · Old & New

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The Bidwell House is striving to serve the community by providing educational programming that reflects the area's history.

Since the arrival of white settlers the history of land use in Berkshire County has largely consisted of farming. The Bidwell House was the parsonage of the first minister of this area, but it was also a prosperous farm during Reverend Bidwell's era, as well as with the tenure of his son and grandson, and with three generations of the Carrington family. The 165-year farming history of the property included land use that was indicative of not only Tyringham and Monterey but also all of Berkshire County.

In the early eighteenth century the first white colonists in this area of the Berkshires settled on the well-drained hillsides which offered the best pasture land. After the Revolution, farms began to prosper and farming techniques and interests changed from those of the semi-subsistence farmers who first settled the land. By the turn of the eighteenth century the Berkshires saw a great increase in sheep farming which coincided with the building of industrialized woolen mills. Dairy farming also boomed fostering expansion in the production of cheese and other dairy products.

True to the times, Reverend Bidwell's son, Adonijah the younger, developed the Bidwell property into a large dairy and sheep farm. The museum has early nineteenth century receipts indicating sales of flocks of sheep ranging from eighty to over one hundred in number. There are also receipts indicating that some bills were paid with cheese instead of cash. When Adonijah the younger built the ell onto the north west side of the house in 1790, he included a buttery for making dairy products.

By 1850, the development of farming in the Midwest (no rocks to deal with, few trees to fell), and the railroad which helped to ship those farm products eastward, proved tough competition for the New England farms. The growth of factories and cities propelled by the industrial revolution also proved to be great competition for farming families. Farmers needed to diversify to make ends meet.

With the introduction of the railroad to this area in the mid-1800's, fuel was needed to stoke the furnaces for the production of iron. In order to obtain wood to make charcoal for iron production, local foundaries purchased logging rights on many area farms. In this area the Richmond Foundry often brought in colliers from Canada to log and make charcoal at the farms in surrounding towns. Woodchopping for the charcoal industry provided off-season work for farmers, as well as iron workers, who might otherwise be unemployed during winter shutdown periods due to frozen, ice-covered mill wheels. In the 1870's, the town of Monterey was the largest producer of charcoal in Massachusetts. The Bidwell House property has two historic charcoal sites.

Until late in the nineteenth century, most large farms managed a woodlot for firewood, building supplies and fences. Accustomed to the deforested European landscape, early colonists felled trees with no concern of management for future generations. The size of these woodlots varied in size from farm to farm. By about the 1850's a fifteen-acre lot was considered enough to keep fires in two stoves. Prior to the use of wood burning stoves, even larger lots were needed to feed hearths for cooking and heating. In addition to the ongoing development of the nineteenth century charcoal industry, the forest trade of maple sugar production also required a great deal of wood fuel for boiling the maple sap.

The harvesting of timber was a winter chore for the farmer. Winter usually provided snow which made it easier to haul logs with oxen and horses. The lack of leaves on underbrush made it easier to access the trees. And in the winter the farmer was freed from the seasonal farm work leaving more time for logging.

Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Bidwell House will be offering a series of educational programs demonstrating seasonal historic farming practices and charcoal making. The first in our series of programs for 1999 will be an **Historic Timber Harvesting Demonstration** held at the Bidwell House on Saturday, February 27, beginning at 1p.m. The program will be presented by Peter Jensen, from Open Space Management of Great Barrington, and aided by Tom Weldon. Peter is a member of SWEAT, the Society of Workers of Early American Tools, and has performed timber harvesting workshops and demonstrations for Blue Slope Farm Museum in Franklin, Connecticut. Peter has harvested timber with historic tools and methods for twenty years.

The Bidwell House series of farming practice demonstrations is produced by historic gardener and farmer J. Thomas Weldon, Head Gardener and Assistant Farm Coordinator at Hancock Shaker Village for four years. His farming experience includes working with oxen and draft horses for both seasonal farming and logging demonstrations. Tom also worked at Shaver's Creek Nature Center in Pennsylvania doing maple sugaring and charcoal making.

Curtin Roofing
62 Main Street
Tyringham, MA 01264
413-243-4577

Matthew Curtin

Bird Incorporated **ROOFING PROFESSIONAL**

The Bidwell House historic timber harvesting demonstration will show the complete process of harvesting from techniques for selecting and felling a tree, hauling the wood with draft animals, peeling bark, and splitting wood. Participants will see the use of cross-cut saws, forged double-bit axes, chopping and splitting axes, a logging scoot, log peelers, and peeves. The demonstration will also include a discussion on the comparison of eighteenth and nineteenth century harvesting techniques. The final part of the program will discuss modern timber harvesting techniques being used on the museum's property. Thus, participants will get a real-life comparison of three centuries of logging practices.

The **Historic Timber Harvesting Demonstration** is free to the public. Please wear clothing appropriate to walking and standing in the winter woods. Be prepared for deep snow or mud. The program will begin on the front porch of the Bidwell House. Please contact the museum for winter road conditions if there is snow or ice. Call 413 528-6888 for information.

Check the *Monterey News* for The Bidwell House **Historic Maple Sugar Demonstration** in March and the **Charcoal Burn** in April.

As part of the historic farming program we will be using a small draft horse for many of the demonstrations. We are looking for the following horse-drawn equipment in good working condition: a single horse mower, a hay rake, a spring tooth harrow, a road roller, and maple sugaring equipment; iron cauldrons, flat non-channeled evaporator pans, wooden buckets, and wooden gathering tanks. If you know of any of these items please call 528-6888. Many thanks.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

MCLAUGHLIN-WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has announced that application forms are now available for the 1999 McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship.

The scholarship fund was established by Edith Wilson in 1995 to aid Monterey's young adults in their future education. Wilson, a sculptor, and Marjorie McLaughlin lived in Monterey for fifty years. Edith Wilson died in 1995.

Preference is given to students as they are entering their first year of higher education after high school. However, applications are welcomed from any Monterey resident pursuing higher education. This may include vocational school, trade school, apprenticeship, college or graduate school. A student can also receive awards over multiple years, but must reapply annually.

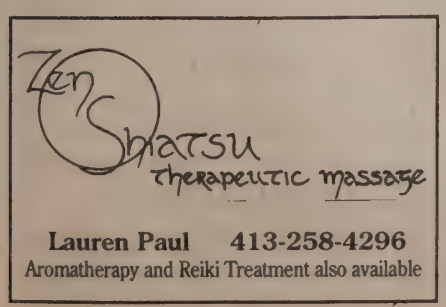
Applicants must be residents of Monterey, meaning that he/she must have physically lived within Monterey during most of the last two years of high school. Exceptions may be made for boarding school students.

Merit is the primary criterion of the awards, but need and other factors will also be considered. Awards generally begin at $2,500 per student though some will be more substantial. They may be offered either as a scholarship grant award, or as a scholarship loan award, depending upon which is more beneficial to the student.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is April 30. To receive an application form please call 528-8039. Forms will also be available at the Monterey Library and the Town Office.

The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund is a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The foundation's mission is to build and strengthen community through philanthropy in Berkshire, Litchfield (Conn.), and Dutchess and Columbia (N.Y) counties.

BIZEN
Freshest Sushi Quality Fish • Organic Vegetables
Japanese Estate Sakes • Unfiltered Dessert Sakes
On the Cutting Edge
"Where to Eat Sushi" in the Berkshires.
The New York Times
Gourmet Japanese Cuisine & Sushi Bar
17 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Mass.
413-528-4343
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00-2:30; Sat. & Sun. 12-3:00 • Dinner 7 Days 5-10



THE SENATOR SAYS

A part of my job is to help the municipalities in western Massachusetts obtain the resources they need to deliver clean water, keep taxes low, provide a quality public education and identify sources of state funding. I support a number of legislative initiatives designed to help cities and towns provide services in the upcoming legislative session, including the following:

Landfill capping grants. Many communities throughout Massachusetts face the substantial cost of capping and closing municipal landfills. State Auditor Joseph DeNucci has estimated that the total cost for capping and closing municipal landfills will be $264 million, with an average cost of $3 million per community. In addition, many communities have already capped their landfills based on a promise of state assistance, but such assistance has been delayed or amounted to less than promised.

The 1987 Solid Waste Act provided for nearly $100 million in state assistance for the capping and closing of landfills, but the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Department of Environmental Protection have never included these bond authorizations in their requests for their share of bond spending permitted under the bond cap.

Because many western Massachusetts communities face substantial costs associated with capping municipal landfills, I have sponsored a bill to bring state assistance directly to these communities. If enacted, this bill would direct the DEP to implement the Solid Waste Act by writing rules and regulations for a landfill capping grant program to provide state assistance to communities that are closing or have closed their landfills in accordance with DEP orders.

Telecommunications Tower Siting. In my travels around the district, I have become familiar with all the cell phone "dead zones" in western Massachusetts. Contrary to rumor, the lack of complete coverage in this area is not due to excessive zoning restrictions. In building out their networks, telecommunications companies have naturally focused first on densely-populated areas and major transportation corridors. In this less-populated and less-traveled region, the industry has simply not yet gotten around to seeking permits for all of the structures necessary to create seamless cellular telephone coverage.

In spite of this, in January 1998, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) issued a decision saying that wireless telecommunications providers can apply to the DTE for exemption from city and town zoning bylaws and ordinances when siting a telecommunications tower. This decision was a reversal of previous rulings by DTE which had found that these wireless service providers do not meet the definition of public service corporations which qualifies them for the zoning exemptions.

The state House and Senate have approved competing versions of legislation to address the issue of cell tower siting. To help resolve the deadlock, players from the wireless telecommunications industry and the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) have formed a collaborative with the hope of developing a process for negotiating disputes over cell tower permits. The collaborative's recommendation may involve siting guidelines and may require legislation, but the goal would be to serve all interests and avoid conflict.

In the event that the collaborative is unable to agree on an approach to resolving permit disputes, municipal advocates remain supportive of the Senate bill which I co-sponsored. This bill has been re-filed for the new session by my colleague Senator Michael W. Morrissey (D-Quincy) and would simply reverse the decision of the DTE, assuring that local governments would retain the power to establish permit conditions which will fit local conditions. Our local officials - not DTE bureaucrats - are in the best position to protect community character and the beauty of the Massachusetts landscape.

Full Funding for Public Education. No task of Municipal government is more important than providing a good public education to our children. Well-educated young people will have more choices as they mature, and will carry the skills to solve problems and process information in all aspects of their lives. Business people all over western Massachusetts tell me that there is a great shortage of capable new workers with sound math, reading and computer skills.

In 1993, Massachusetts undertook a seven-year program of Education Reform. This initiative was a response to a court case which had challenged traditional school finance based on local property taxes. Ed Reform was intended to provide continuity and fairness in funding for public education, and to raise the quality of the K-12 educational experience for all children throughout the Commonwealth. With just one fiscal year left in this seven-year plan, there will soon be an opportunity to fine-tune and amend the underlying model which Ed Reform has built. Under Ed Reform, the Commonwealth has increased its annual contribution to public education by more than $2 billion, thus giving municipalities an opportunity to improve our schools and graduates.

Public education is a critical function of state and municipal government, and the quality of our future workers depend on our commitment to public education today. I will continue fighting to provide municipalities with the resources they need to educate our children.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
Attorney at Law

342 Main St. Gt. Barrington, MA 01230
617 Main Rd. PO Box 63
Monterey, MA 01245

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE
IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Free Consultation
on any Legal Matter

Evening and Weekend
Appointments Available

PHONE (413) 528-8900
FAX (413) 528-9888

REP RAP

Massachusetts is the home of many of the finest colleges and universities, both public and private, in the United States. To have several quality institutions right in our own backyard gives the children of Massachusetts a diverse range of choices from which to pursue their education without going far from home. Furthermore, by offering quality higher education the Commonwealth is able to train a future workforce that can lend their immense talents to businesses, industries and government in Massachusetts.

I work hard every year to insure the our state colleges and universities are fully funded through the state budget so that we can continue to offer every student a sound foundation for the future through affordable quality public education. As a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Berkshire Community College, I recall my days at both schools with much fondness. It was a wonderful way to learn about life that every young adult should have the opportunity to experience.

In order to extend this opportunity to our children we need control the cost of tuition that can put college out of reach for people. To that end, I have cosponsored the higher education "Fair Share" bill that would cap tuition and fees at state colleges and universities to one-third or less of the cost to educate each student and twenty five percent at our community colleges. If passed the measure would make it unlawful to raise tuition beyond a certain point, provided that the schools meet performance standards. If the schools do not meet these requirements they would be at risk for losing state funds. The bill also requires the school to achieve other financial support from federal grants, endowments, and fundraising. This would prevent costs from rising excessively and the state being stuck with the whole bill. The proposed funding formula would create predictability in the state budgeting of higher education costs and college expenses for students.

This is the time to make an a sound investment in the future, when we have the money to make the initial commitment for this important venture. For the past several years, many of our public higher education institutions have become some of the most expensive in the nation. Massachusetts community colleges have the highest price tag in the U.S., its state colleges are the seventh most expensive, and UMass is the fourth most expensive state university. The state needs to help bridge the gap that can mean the difference between a student going to college or not.

I received an excellent and affordable public education at UMass and Berkshire Community College that made a difference in my life and career. The "Fair Share" bill will help guarantee this opportunity for people in our state and secure an educated workforce for tomorrow. This is the final year that the measure will be introduced in the Legislature. I will push for its passage. If you should have any questions regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my full-time district office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

the BOOKLOFT

New & Used Books
Fine Cards · Magazines

We Welcome Your Special Orders
•
Most Books Arrive in 1-3 Days

Mon. – Fri. 9:30–9
Sat. 9:30–5:30
Sun. noon–5

413 · 528-1521

Barrington Plaza Rt. 7
Gt. Barrington, MA 01230

BLUE HILL LAND&TIMBER CORP. FORESTRY · HARVESTING
BLUE HILL LOGGING CO. DIVISION

Buyers of forest land, standing timber, and logs.
Environmentally sound cut-to-length harvesting system.
Licensed & Insured

Jed Lipsky, Box 566, Monterey, MA 01245
413-528-0762

Mad Scot

Small Engine Repair

Lawn Mowers
Tractors
Tillers
Chain Saws
Snowblowers

Many years' experience on all types of small engines.

Chains and blades sharpened.

Don Clawson
Box 26
Monterey 01245

Pickup and delivery.
Local service.
Reasonable rates.

(413) 528-3257

MARY WALLACE

Mary "Angelina" Wallace, 88, of Silver Street, formerly of Monument Valley Road, died Jan. 20 at Fairview Manor.

Born in Toceno, Italy, on May 30, 1910, daughter of Guiseppe A. and Celestina Borgnis Pelegrini, she attended schools there.

A self-taught bookkeeper, she worked for twenty four years at the former Mountain Sand & Gravel Co., and ten years for its successors, Peckham Industries. She also did bookkeeping for the Jenifer House and other small businesses, and operated Mary's Little Shop, a knickknack shop on Monument Valley Road.

A seventh-degree member of the Grange, she served more than sixty years in Monterey Grange 291, where she was a forty five-year lecturer known for her interesting and educational programs. She was also a member of the Stockbridge Grange, Berkshire South Pomona Grange 25, and the Massachusetts and National granges, where she served on many committees. She also served on the Massachusetts State Conservation Committee for eight years.

A sports fan, she supported area schools and college sports, and was a fan of the Boston Celtics. She enjoyed music, especially classical and opera.

Her husband, James B. Wallace, died in 1996. She leaves a son, James A. Wallace of Georgetown, Texas; three sisters, Anna Simonelli and Domenica Spadaccini, both of Housatonic, and Catherine Oggiani of Great Barrington, and three granddaughters.

HANNAH CLIMENA PIXLEY
A Life in Monterey, 1862-1953

The story you read
in *Monterey News* is now a booklet.

$10 postpaid.

P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245

PERSONAL NOTES

A very happy birthday to **Gige O'Connell** on February 1, to **Mark Makuc** and **Donna Trumbull** on February 2, to **Mike Mielke Jr.** on February 7, To **Claude "Tim" Burke** and **Bob Rausch** on February 9, to **Ann Higgins** on February 11, to **Jack Jefferson** and **Lanny Lanoue** on February 14, to **Dave Gauthier** on February 15, to **Maryellen Brown** and **Arnold Pratt** on February 16, to **Kim Gero** on February 18, to **Rachel Rodgers** on February 10, to **Maggie Clawson** and **Dick Tryon** on February 22, to **Jim Edelman** on February 23, to **Mark Amstead** on February 26, to **Paul Makuc**, **Morgan Schick**, and **Kayla Snyder** on February 27. **Shaen O'Connor's** Leap Year birthday is on February 29, so we wish him happy birthday on February 28.

On January 1, 1999, **Shirley** and **Karl Quisenberry** of Bidwell Road celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their entire family gathered for a two-day celebration hosted by the couple's three children, and on January 2, the adult children honored their parents with a fiftieth anniversary dinner at the Old Inne on the Green in New Marlboro. Congratulations, and may you have many more happy years together!

Wedding anniversary greetings this month go out to **Gerry** and **Marge McMahon** on February 7, to **Arnold** and **Judy Hayes** on February 13, and to **Don** and **Pat Amstead** on February 27.

A work of art by **Mariah Rutherford Olds** is being exhibited at Berkshire Bank in Great Barrington as part of the Partners in Education program that the bank supports. Mariah's work is a portrait of a native or indian figure with a painted face, and she uses leaves, crepe paper, foil, and various other materials to give shape and texture to the features of the painting. Check it out next time you are in G.B.

Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker welcomed a visitor to their home last month. The circumstances of his arrival were not ideal and consequently Bonner has asked me to pass on the following message to readers of the *Monterey News*. She hopes that her intended audience reads the *News* and will recognize him or herself: "Just before Christmas a male white cat showed up on Hupi Road. He was injured but friendly and moved into the barn at Bonner McAllester's and Joe Baker's place. He lived on mice and goat milk. When the weather got cold, he moved into the house and proved to be a friendly guy, about four years old. Bonner and Joe advertised him on the radio and in the Shopper's Guide, also called Marty Clark and all the neighbors, but no one has claimed "Angel." "If he is your cat and you want him back, you are a little slow and unresourceful about finding him. If he is your cat and you dumped him for some reason, you are a creep. Either way, he has a good home and you can't have him back."

The Winter Solstice has gone by, and longer, sunnier days lie ahead. We hope our readers are enjoying the winter weather, such as it is. So far it seems that there has been a little too much rain and ice and not quite enough snow, but perhaps things will improve in the next couple of months, and the kids will be able to haul their sleds uphill again.

In the meantime, we enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, or give me a call at 528-6691, if possible, before the twelfth of each month. If you prefer e-mail, my address is higgins@vgernet.net. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

SUSAN MOODY WHITE

Sue Moody White passed away on December 8 in Tappahannock, Virginia at age ninety six. She was a writer and a retired school teacher, teaching creative writing and French in a girls' school in Tappahannock. Her friends here have fond memories of her. Some speak of the soft light cast by her candles as they passed by her house on Route 23 between Monterey and Otis where she spent many summers years ago. She will be greatly missed by all her friends. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law in Stoughton, MA.

— Eleanor Kimberly

CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 2, 7 p.m. at the Town Offices, Town Survey Committee meeting. The group will discuss land use and land planning issues in order to create appropriate and useful questions for the Town Survey. All town boards and officers are encouraged to attend.

Saturday, February 6, rescheduled date of the Tenth Annual Monterey Cup Hockey Tournament (weather permitting) in the rink behind the Firehouse, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Come join friends and neighbors for a hot cup of cocoa and watch the action.

Saturday, February 6, Monterey Library 1999 Annual Film Festival, *Suspicion*, at 7:30. Admission is free and popcorn and juice are available for a nominal fee. See ad this issue for more information.

Saturday, February 13, Monterey Library 1999 Annual Film Festival continues with *The Thin Man* at 7:30. See calendar listing above for details.

Monday, February 15, Town Hall closed in observance of the President's Day holiday.

Tuesday, February 16, Blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m., administered by the Visiting Nurses Association, in the basement of the Town Offices.

Monday, February 22, 10 a.m.-noon, South County La Leche League at the Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breastfeeding. For questions and directions all Maureen at 528-6619.

Saturday, February 27, 1 p.m., Historic Timber Harvest Demonstration at the Bidwell House, Art School Road. Demonstrations with 18th and 19th century tools and techniques. Admission is free. Please dress for walking in snow in the woods. Call ahead for road conditions if weather is bad (528-6888).

Saturday, February 27, Square and contradancing 8:30-11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7 Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Tim Van Egmond. All dances are taught and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments served at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. For information call 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Sunday, February 28, 3 p.m., Family Concert at Uncommon Grounds coffee shop, Route 7, Great Barrington. Suggested $5 donation to benefit the South County La Leche League.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday ..... 7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday ..... 3–5 p.m.
Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
..... 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

THE OBSERVER

December 25-January 25

High temp. (1/24) ..... 54.1°
Low temp. (1/2) ..... -6°
Avg. high temp. ..... 31.8°
Avg. low temp. ..... 13.7°
Avg. temp. ..... 22.8°
High bar. press. (1/14) ..... 30.47"
Low bar. press. (12/30) ..... 29.21°
High wind gust (12/30) ..... 42 m.p.h.
Wind chilled low temp. (1/2) ..... -38°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow) 6.38"
Snowfall ..... 23.3"

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry & Jane Burke
Ken & Laurel Kahn
Tim Walter
Daniel Zweig/Sally Petrick

Walsh's Auto Repair

Foreign & domestic cars

Some work done overnight

Custom pipe bending & welding

Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-5
413-528-4267
Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

MONTEREY LIBRARY ANNUAL FILM FEST 1999

Four Fabulous Saturday Nights of Free 16mm Films

- January 23: Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)
- January 30: Stagecoach (1939)
- February 6: Suspicion (1941)
- February 13: The Thin Man (1934)

All Films Begin at 7:30 p.m. ••• Popcorn and Juice Sold Cheap!

Film Fest is Sponsored by Western Massachusetts Library Systems.

YOU CAN FEEL BETTER... MASSAGE WORKS!

- SWEDISH
- ZEN SHIATSU
- SPORTS MASSAGE
- DEEP TISSUE/TRIGGER POINT

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN MONTEREY, MA

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!
KERRY KELLEY, LMT
(413) 528-8492
MEMBER AMTA

THERAPEUTIC Relax! MASSAGE

CORASHIRE REALTY

Nancy Dinan
Broker
413-528-0014

Deborah D. Mielke
Broker
413-528-1871

Our 28th year

Fax 413-528-4809

Rick Mielke

Seasonal Caretaking

Professional Year-Round Maintenance
of Your House and Grounds

528-0864

We Return Your Calls
20 Years' Service • Fully Equipped • Fully Insured
P. O. Box 211, Monterey, MA 01245

Editor ..... Maggie Leonard
Asst. Editor ..... Jon Sylbert
Reporters ..... Help!
..... David McAllester
Personal Notes ..... Ann Higgins
Typist ..... Pat Amstead
Mailing Labels ..... Ian Jenkins
Business Manager ..... Barbara Tryon
Treasurer ..... Mari Makuc

Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on Macintosh disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a Macintosh formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-1170.

No portion of the *Monterey News* may be reproduced without permission.

Contributions from local artists this month: Scott Duhon, p. 7, George Emmons, p. 8, Bonner McAllester, p. 16

• PRINTED ON 40% RECYCLED PAPER •

MONTEREY NEWS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTEREY, MA 01245

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Monterey, MA
Permit # 2